

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 272515

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 8370 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
GUAYAQUIL 15 NOVEMBER 75.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8370

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD EC EFIS

SUBJECT: AGUIRRE ASKS THE STATUS OF GSP AMENDMENT

REF: QUITO 8368

1. DURING A CONVERSATION I HAD NOVEMBER 14 WITH FONMIN AGUIRRE COVERING A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, HE ASKED ME TO TAKE UP ONE MATTER WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON AT THE COM CONFERENCE, I.E., ECUADOR'S EXCLUSION FROM GSP. WITHOUT BELABORING THE POINT, HE SAID THAT ACTION ON THIS MATTER, NAMELY MAKING ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA ELIGIBLE, WOULD GREATLY FACILITATE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE FISHERIES PROBLEM.

2. I TOLD AGUIRRE THAT AS HE KNEW THE PRESIDENT AND THE
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SECRETARY HAD ASKED CONGRESS TO AMEND THE GSP TO EXTEND ITS

BENEFITS TO ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA. THE CONGRESS, HOWEVER, FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASE, EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO DEFER ACTION UNTIL AFTER THE OPEC MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. NOW THAT THE MEETING WAS OVER, I SAID, THE PRICE WHICH ECUADOR SET ON ITS PETROLEUM WOULD QUITE POSSIBLY BE A FACTOR IN THE CONGRESS' DECISION. I ASKED AGUIRRE HOW THAT MATTER STOOD.

3. AGUIRRE TOLD ME THAT THE COMMISSION OF EXPERTS APPOINTED BY THE CABINET HAD AGREED ON A RECOMMENDATION AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO THE CABINET. HOWEVER, A COMMISSION OF THE JOINT STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES HAD ALSO COME UP (THE INFERENCE WAS WITHOUT HAVING BEEN ASKED) WITH A STUDY ON PRICING WHICH DIFFERED IN SOME DEGREE FROM THAT OF THE OTHER COMMISSION. PERSONALLY, AGUIRRE CONTINUED, HE FELT THAT THE INITIAL COMMISSION'S REPORT WOULD MOST PROBABLY PREVAIL AND HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN NEXT WEEK.

4. I TOLD AGUIRRE THAT MY IMPRESSION FROM THE PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES WAS THAT THE PRICE RISE IN ECUADOREAN PETROLEUM WOULD NOT BE GREAT; THAT THAT MIGHT HAVE A FAVORABLE BEARING ON THE GSP AMENDMENT; AND THAT IN ANY EVENT I WOULD ENDEAVOR TO ASCERTAIN WHERE THE MATTER STOOD DURING THE COURSE OF MY WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. BREWSTER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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